

VIRGINIA BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS

=====

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
REGULATORY BOARDS

=====

=====

NEWSLETTER
APRIL 1987

=====

Promulgation of Regulations for
Licensed Professional Counselors

The Virginia Board of Professional Counselors has scheduled a public hearing for May 18, 1987, for considering comments on its proposed regulations governing the practice of professional counseling. As a result of former Governor Charles S. Robb's Executive Order 52(84) directing the review of all regulations within the state, the Board of Professional Counselors reviewed its existing regulations and has proposed a new set of regulations. The public hearing is scheduled for May 18, 1987, at 10:00 a.m., House Room 4, State Capitol, Richmond, Virginia. The public comment period is open until June 29, 1987. Individuals interested in commenting on the regulations are encouraged to attend the public hearing or address their comments to the Board at the following address:

Board of Professional Counselors
Department of Health Regulatory Boards
1601 Rolling Hills Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23229-5005

Individuals interested in receiving a copy of the proposed regulations may do so by contacting the Board office at the above address.

New Fee Schedule

As part of the regulatory review process, the Board has reviewed all of the Board's fees required of applicants and licensees. The Board has not raised its fees since 1981. Since 1981, the increased costs associated with application processing and examinations, licensure renewal, and the investigation of consumer complaints regarding licensees make it necessary for the Board to adopt a new fee structure. The Board has proposed, and has had approved, a new fee structure that is now in effect.

As part of that new fee structure, the Board has moved to an annual license renewal at a fee of \$75 a year.

Licensees who do not receive a renewal notice by June 30 of each year should contact the Board office.

Substance Abuse Counselor Regulations

The Board of Professional Counselors is also in the process of promulgating new regulations for the certification of substance abuse counselors. The program for the certification of substance abuse counselors should be introduced during this summer. Copies of the Board's proposed regulations governing the certification of substance abuse counselors are available through the Board office.

Hypnosis and Hypnotherapy: A Clinical Tool for Use by Licensed Professional Counselors

The Council on Health Regulatory Boards has scheduled a public hearing on the regulation of hypnosis and hypnotherapy for Monday, May 4, 1987, at 10:00 a.m. at the General Assembly Building, House Room C, Richmond, Virginia.

In anticipation of the public hearing, the Board of Professional Counselors unanimously adopted the following motion at its meeting on February 27, 1987:

WHEREAS, the clinical use of hypnosis or hypnotherapy, performed by trained behavioral science professionals, represents an appropriate and effective therapeutic tool used by professionals licensed under the Department of Health Regulatory Boards;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Professional Counselors recognizes hypnosis and hypnotherapy as an appropriate counseling tool, useful in the practice of professional counseling, when such techniques are within the training and competency of the licensed professional counselor.

The Council will be receiving comments from the public on the regulation of hypnosis and hypnotherapy until May 29, 1987. Comments should be addressed to:

Richard D. Morrison
Department of Health Regulatory Boards
1601 Rolling Hills Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23229-5005

Another Milestone in Professional
Counseling in Virginia

Governor Baliles has signed Senate Bill 459. This legislation requires the reimbursement for professional services performed by professional counselors if the client's insurance policy provides such coverage.

The Board of Professional Counselors unanimously recommended that Governor Baliles sign Senate Bill 459. In its evaluation of this bill, the Board concluded that the law will have a substantial public impact in regard to expanding consumer freedom of choice and containing the rising costs of mental health care.

Licensed professional counselors should be aware of the added responsibility this major development has created. The Board urges all licensed professional counselors to keep mental health care costs down and serve the public's mental health care needs with ever-increasing professional responsibility.

Use of the Term "Psychotherapy"

On occasion, the Board of Professional Counselors will receive questions from the public and members of the profession regarding the use of the term "psychotherapy" by professional counselors to describe this method of therapy used in their practices.

It is the Board of Professional Counselors' position that licensed professional counselors can use the term "psychotherapy" in their practices as there is no specific provision in the State's statutes governing the use of that term. The Board has determined that a licensed professional counselor can perform psychotherapy as long as psychotherapy does not involve psychoanalysis or techniques in which the counselor is not competent. The Board considers its position consistent with the historical position endorsed by the former Board of Behavioral Sciences.

Oral Examiners Training Session

On April 15, 1987, the Board's first workshop was held for training licensed professional counselors to serve as examiners in oral examinations for licensure. The workshop is to be conducted biennially by the Board. Over 80 individuals participated in the workshop held in Richmond. Participants included both licensed professional counselors and drug and alcoholism counselors who had been identified by the Board in their oral examinations as qualified to act as future examiners.

Use of Educational Credentials

Licensed professional counselors are entitled to use any educational credentials in conjunction with their private practice as long as those credentials are issued by educational institutions that are regionally accredited by recognized institutional accrediting associations. Professional counselors may use designations on their curriculae vitae or in conjunction with advertising their professional practice such as Ph.D., Ed.D., and M.Ed.

The use of degree credentials granted by colleges or universities that are not accredited is prohibited. A violation of this prohibition is considered by the Board to be a misrepresentation of one's professional competence as specified in the Board's Code of Ethics.

Use of Unlicensed Counselors

Licensed professional counselors may employ counselors who are not yet licensed but are in the process of fulfilling the Board's experiential requirements for licensure by working under supervision. Any unlicensed counselor rendering counseling services to private practice clients must have completed a graduate degree in counseling or the eight core subject area requirements specified in the Board's regulations. In addition, an arrangement for supervision must be registered with the Board.

All clients served by the unlicensed counselor must be notified that the individual is under supervision of the licensed professional counselor.

All fees must be paid by the client to the licensed professional counselor. Any fees for services paid to the unlicensed counselor must be paid to that individual by the licensed professional counselor.

Licensed professional counselors should realize that they are legally and ethically responsible for all services rendered to their clients by unlicensed counselors. If a complaint is received against an unlicensed counselor, the licensed professional counselor who is registered as that individual's supervisor is responsible to the Board.

Disciplinary Action

The Board of Professional Counselors has taken action against the following licensed professional counselors:

Robert Meixner, Bedford, Virginia, Consent Order, effective 3/23/87; license surrendered so that it could be suspended;

Anthony Rapone, Consent Order, effective 2/27/87, license surrendered so that it may be revoked;

Ansel P. Simpson, Petersburg, Virginia, Board Order, effective 3/2/1987, license surrendered.

Requests for copies of disciplinary actions may be made to the Board of Professional Counselors pursuant to Chapter 2.1-342 of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

Farewells

The Board of Professional Counselors wishes to express its appreciation to two members of the Board who will be leaving the Board on June 30, 1987.

A. Patrick L. Prest has served as the pastoral counselors' representative to the Board since 1976. Pat Prest was Chairman of the Board from July 1, 1980 until June 30, 1981. He also served as Chairman of the Council on Health Regulatory Boards.

Theodore P. Remley, Jr., Ph.D., will be resigning effective June 30, 1987. Dr. Remley, who is currently on the faculty of George Mason University and who has been Board Chairman for the past year, has accepted a position as Chairman of the Department of Counseling at Mississippi State University.

Board Members

Donald Anderson, Ed.D.
Carol G. Barr, Ed.D.
Charlotte M. Chapman
David E. Hutchins, Ph.D.
Suzanne French Lewis
Paul Nichols, Ed.D.
A. Patrick L. Prest
Theodore P. Remley, Jr., Ph.D.
Keith C. Wright

Board Staff

Stephanie A. Sivert, Executive Director
Joyce Williams, Administrative Assistant
(804) 662-9912
Dept. of Health Regulatory Boards
1601 Rolling Hills Drive
Richmond, Virginia 23229-5005